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SEVENTY-THIRD AND FINAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE

OF THE

STATE OF MICHIGAN

FOR THE

SIX MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1914.



AUGUSTUS C. CARTON, COMMISSIONER.

LANSING, MICHIGAN
WYNKOOP HALLENBECK CRAWFORD CO., STATE PRINTERS
1916.

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STATE LAND OFFICE.

AUGUSTUS C. CARTON.....STATE LAND COMMISSIONER
EDWIN R. HAVENS.....DEPUTY LAND COMMISSIONER
F. C. PARKER.....BOOKKEEPER

REPORT.

MICHIGAN STATE LAND OFFICE,
Lansing, December 31, 1914.

HON. WOODBRIDGE N. FERRIS, *Governor of Michigan*:

Sir:—In compliance with the provisions of law establishing the State Land Office, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and for reference to the Legislature, a report of the transactions of this department for the six months ending December 31, 1914, being the seventy-third and final report of the Commissioner of the State Land Office.

The whole number of acres of all classes of land reported as held by the State at the close of business, June 30, 1914 . . .	356,694.45
The whole number of acres of all classes of lands set aside as Forest Reserves and omitted from former reports.	234,619.20
The whole number of acres of all classes of lands gained through having been omitted in former computations of plat books. .	637.32
The whole number of acres of "Tax Homestead" lands deeded to the State by the Auditor General, under the provisions of Sec. 127, Act 206, Public Acts of 1893 and acts amendatory thereto.	81.00
The whole number of acres of "Tax Homestead" lands that reverted to the State during the past six months for non-compliance with the requirements of Act 206, Public Acts of 1893 and acts amendatory thereto.	2,107.44
The whole number of acres of land deeded to the State by individuals in exchange for other lands and now included in the Tax homestead lands set aside for Forest Reserves.	680.00
The whole number of acres of Swamp lands patented to the State by the United States during the six months.	40.00
Total.	594,859.41
The whole number of acres of Tax Homestead land entered as homesteads by actual settlers under the provisions of Sec. 131, Act 206, Public Acts of 1893 and acts amendatory thereto	120.00
The whole number of acres of Tax Homestead lands disposed of by exchange with individuals under the provisions of Act 193 of the Laws of 1911.	637.29
The whole number of acres of all classes of lands held by the State at close of business December 31, 1914.	594,102.12
Total.	594,859.41

The lands held by the State December 31, 1914, are classified as follows:

Agricultural College lands.....	8,912.04	
Agricultural College lands in Forest reserve..	41,568.14	50,480.18
Primary School lands.....	9,915.65	
Primary School lands in Forest reserve.....	247.82	10,163.47
Swamp lands.....	6,714.37	
Swamp lands in Forest reserves.....	1,301.64	8,016.01
Tax Homestead lands.....	291,692.72	
Tax Homestead lands in Forest reserves.....	233,749.74	525,442.46
Total.....		594,102.12

The number of acres of all classes of lands disposed of, the amounts received from such sales and the amounts remaining unpaid on purchases during the past six months were as follows:

Class of land.	Acres.	Amount sold for.	Amount paid.
Tax homestead, village lots.....		\$12,327 00	\$12,327 00
Tax homestead deeded to actual settlers.....	6,552.00		
Tax homestead, exchanged for other lands.....	637.39		
Total.....	7,189.95	\$12,327 00	\$12,327 00

The amount collected on account of trespass on State lands during the six months has been \$286.98, which amount was divided as follows:

Tax Homestead land.....	\$283 98
State Tax land.....	3 00
Total.....	\$286 98

TABLE No. 1.—*Showing by counties the number of acres of tax homestead lands sold under the provisions of Section 131, Act 206, Laws of 1893 and acts amendatory thereto, during the six months ending December 31, 1914.*

Counties.	Acres.	Amount received.	City and village lots. Amount received.
Alger			\$10 00
Baraga			30 00
Bay			115 00
Chippewa			68 00
Clare			24 00
Crawford			109 00
Gogebic			250 00
Grand Traverse			46 00
Iosco			1 00
Isabella			28 00
Kalkaska			12 00
Kent			75 00
Mackinac			21 00
Mason			35 00
Mecosta			46 00
Midland			30 00
Missaukee			25 00
Montcalm			510 00
Roscommon			20 00
Saginaw			9,240 00
Sanilac			25 00
Wayne			1,607 00
Total			\$12,327 00

TABLE No. 2.—*Showing by counties the number of acres of tax homestead land deeded to actual settlers under the provisions of Sec. 131 of Act 206, State Laws of 1893, and acts amendatory thereto, during the six months ending December 31, 1914.*

Counties.	Acres.	Village lots.
Arenac	67 32	
Alcona	122 27	
Alpena	685 28	
Bay	20 00	7.
Benzie	120 00	
Charlevoix	240 00	
Clare	200 00	
Cheboygan	40 01	
Crawford	55 00	
Chippewa	480 54	
Delta	335 95	
Gladwin	1,172 34	
Iosco	280 00	
Mecosta	162 25	
Montmorency	751 28	
Missaukee	80 00	
Muskegon	80 00	
Newaygo	700 42	
Ogemaw	240 00	
Ottawa		1.
Oscoda	240 00	
Oceana	360 00	
Roscommon	120 00	
Saginaw		1.
Total	6,552.66	9.

TABLE NO. 3.—*Showing by counties the number of acres of tax homestead lands that have reverted to the State during the six months ending December 31, 1914, for non-compliance with Act 206 of the Laws of 1893 and Acts amendatory thereto.*

Counties.	Acres.
Alpena.....	80.00
Clare.....	120.00
Gladwin.....	440.00
Huron.....	31.82
Mecosta.....	80.00
Midland.....	80.00
Missaukee.....	80.00
Montmorency.....	280.00
Newaygo.....	115.62
Ogemaw.....	400.00
Oscoda.....	320.00
Roscommon.....	80.00
Total.....	2,107.44

TABLE NO. 4.—*Showing by counties the number of acres of State tax homestead lands entered by settlers under certificates, issued during the six months ending December 31, 1914.*

Counties.	Acres.	Amount received.
Ogemaw.....	80.00	\$8 00
Wexford.....	40.00	4 00
Total.....	120.00	\$12 00

TABLE NO. 5.—*Showing by counties the number of acres deeded to the State under the provisions of Sec. 127, Act 206, P. A. 1893, during the six months ending December 31, 1914.*

Counties.	Acres.
Iosco.....	40.00
Oscoda.....	40.00
Schoolcraft.....	1.00
Total.....	81.00

MICHIGAN STATE LAND OFFICE

AND

STATE LANDS.

An Act of Congress approved June 23, 1836, entitled

"AN ACT Supplementary to the Act entitled 'An Act to establish the Northern Boundary of the State of Ohio, and to provide for the admission of the State of Michigan into the Union on certain conditions.'" contained certain propositions to the State, as follows:

"That in lieu of the proposition submitted the Congress of the United States by an ordinance passed by the convention of delegates at Detroit, assembled for the purpose of making a constitution for the State of Michigan, which are hereby rejected; and that the following propositions be and the same are hereby offered to the Legislature of the State of Michigan for their acceptance or rejection, which if accepted, under the authority conferred on the said Legislature by the convention which framed the constitution of the said State, shall be obligatory upon the United States.

First. That section numbered sixteen in every township of the public lands, and where such section has been sold or otherwise disposed of, other lands equivalent thereto, and as contiguous as may be, shall be granted to the State for the use of schools."

The second proposal gave to the State seventy-two sections of land for the use and support of a University.

These two provisions were supplementary to and confirmatory of like provisions of an Act of Congress approved May 20, 1826, reserving the lands on section sixteen in each township for the support of schools, and also of another act of same date authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to set apart and reserve from sale, etc., a quantity of land not exceeding two entire townships for the use and support of an University.

The third proposition was to grant "five entire sections of land" for the purpose of "completing the public buildings of the said state, etc.," and the

Fourth proposition was to give to the State "all salt springs within the State, not exceeding twelve in number, with six sections adjoining, or as contiguous as may be to each," and also providing "That the General Assembly shall never sell or lease the same, at any one time, for a longer period than ten years, without the consent of Congress."

Upon the acceptance by the Legislature of the above propositions the State was admitted into the Union, and the Legislature, by Act No. 104, Session Laws of 1837, provided that the disposition of the university and primary school lands should be placed under care of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. This continued until the passage of Act No. 42 of the session laws of 1843, entitled

"AN ACT to organize a Land Office, and to regulate the sale of the public lands."

Section one provided for the establishment of an office to be denominated

the land office of the State of Michigan, the chief officer of the same to be called the commissioner of the land office, and after the first of January, 1844, to be appointed by the Governor and to serve two years, unless sooner removed, and to receive an annual salary of one thousand dollars.

Under the provisions of this act it was provided that for the first year, or until January 1, 1844, the land office should be a bureau or department of the auditor general's office, and authorized the auditor general and the state treasurer to appoint some competent person to take charge of the office, and who should be required to execute and file the bond required in the fourth section of the act and to receive the compensation to be given to the commissioner who should be appointed by the Governor to succeed him at the end of the year.

Hon. Digby V. Bell was selected and appointed under the above provision who made the first report of the commissioner of the state land office December 1, 1843. Mr. Bell received an appointment to succeed himself from the Governor and by successive appointments served as commissioner of the state land office until February 16, 1846, when he was succeeded by Abiel Silver who was succeeded by Porter Kibbie April 2, 1850.

The constitution of 1850 made the "State Land Commissioner" an elective office and at the election of 1850 Porter Kibbie was elected to the office.

The office has since been held by the following named persons:

Porter Kibbie.....	1851-1854
Seymour D. Treadwell.....	1855-1858
James W. Sanborn.....	1859-1860
Samuel S. Lacey.....	1861-1864
Cyrus Hewitt.....	1865-1866
Benjamin D. Pritchard.....	1867-1870
Charles A. Edmunds.....	1871-1872
Leverett A. Clapp.....	1873-1876
Benjamin D. Pritchard.....	1877-1878
James M. Neasmith.....	1879-1882
Minor S. Newell.....	1883-1886
Roscoe D. Dix.....	1887-1890
George T. Shaffer.....	1891-1892
John G. Berry.....	1893 to March 20, 1894
William H. French.....	March 20, 1894-1900
Edwin A. Wildey.....	1901-1904
William H. French.....	1905-1908
Huntley Russell.....	1909-1912
Augustus C. Carton.....	1913-1914

PRIMARY SCHOOL LANDS.

The Act of Congress approved May 20, 1826, provided:

"That to make provision for the support of schools, in all townships or fractional townships for which no land has been heretofore appropriated for that use in those States in which section number sixteen, or other land equivalent thereto, is by law directed to be reserved for the support of schools, in each township, there shall be reserved and appropriated, for the use of schools, in each entire township or fractional township, for which no land has been heretofore appropriated or granted for that purpose, the following quantities of land to-wit: for each township or fractional township, con-

taining a greater quantity of land than three-quarters of an entire township, one section; for a fractional township containing a greater quantity of land than one-half, and not more than three-quarters of a township, three-quarters of a section; for a fractional township, containing a greater quantity of land than one-quarter, and not more than one-half of a township, one-half section; and for a fractional township containing a greater quantity of land than one entire section, and not more than one-quarter of a township, one-quarter section of land."

The exact numbers of acres received by the State of this class of land has been difficult to determine. Except in case of the lands in other sections which were granted to the State as indemnity for lands disposed of by the general government and to supply the deficiency in the matter of fractional sections and townships no lists of selections were made, and as the only necessary identification of the lands intended to be granted, was that such lands should be found in section "sixteen" that section was indicated upon the sales plat books of the office as "primary school" land and sales were made accordingly. The commissioner of the state land office in 1872 estimated that the state would receive 1,067,000 acres under the grant. Recent computations do not fully agree with this estimate but the difference is too small to be important, and we believe this estimate to be substantially correct. There remains of this grant, at this date, 10,163.47 acres unsold.

The amount of moneys received on account of the sales of the primary school lands, including the moneys received by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, up to and including the 31st day of December, 1914, have been:

For Principal.....	\$4,382,465 76
For Interest.....	2,205,804 52
For Penalty.....	68,931 89
Total.....	\$6,657,202 17

Of lands of this class sold on part-paid certificates there remains at this date 8,122.38 acres on which the unpaid balance of principal is \$20,333.24 bearing an annual interest of seven per cent per annum. Interest is payable on the first day of March in each year, and if not paid within sixty days thereafter a penalty of twenty-five per cent of the whole amount of the interest is exacted.

The price of this class of land was first fixed by the Legislature at eight (\$8.00) dollars per acre, which was reduced at different times until in 1848 the price was fixed at four (\$4.00) dollars per acre, at which price it remained until the Legislature of 1899 passed an act authorizing the commissioner of the state land office to withdraw from market all school lands, cause them to be examined and to appraise them at prices that would compare with the value of lands of the same quality of soil and other characteristics as lands in the same localities were held by individuals, if wild and uncultivated. Under this authority such lands have been sold at prices ranging from fifty cents per acre to ten dollars per acre.

UNIVERSITY LANDS.

The number of acres received for the benefit of the University was 46,080 or thereabouts. Under the provisions of the first act (May 20, 1826) there had been selected certain tracts near what became the city of Toledo, Ohio.

The acreage of the tracts selected was fractional and in the final adjustment of the grant these tracts were accepted in lieu of two sections, thus making the actual number of acres slightly less than would be contained in seventy-two sections of six hundred forty acres each.

All lands of this class have been sold. The whole sum of moneys received on account of this class of lands up to and including December 31, 1914, has been:

Principal.....	\$609,755 89
Interest.....	530,081 39
Penalty.....	8,532 66
Total.....	<u>\$1,148,369 94</u>

Two hundred sixty-six and 66/100 (266.66) acres of University land are held under part-paid certificates on which the unpaid principal is three thousand, forty-five and 00/100 (\$3,045.00) dollars which sum draws interest at seven per cent per annum.

SALT SPRING LANDS.

Under the provisions of the original act (June 23, 1836) these lands could not be sold by the State, but on March 3, 1847, an act was passed by Congress authorizing the sale of these lands by the State under the direction of the Legislature.

The legislature provided that the minimum price of Salt Spring lands which had not been improved should be four (\$4.00) dollars per acre, and that the minimum price of such of them as has been improved should be determined by the commissioner of the state land office after examination and appraisal, but that none of these lands should be sold for less than four (\$4.00) dollars per acre, and that all sums received on account of the sale of these lands should be placed to the credit of the general fund of the State.

By Act 138, approved March 28, 1849, ten sections of Salt Spring lands were set aside, the proceeds from the sale of which were to be applied to pay the expenses of the erection and completion of the buildings to be erected for a Normal School, and fifteen sections were to be set aside for the purpose of paying the principal and his assistants, the first appropriation to be "Normal School building fund" and the second to be called "the normal school endowment fund."

By Act No. 187, Session Laws of 1848 as amended by Act No. 133 of the Session Laws of 1849, the commissioner of the state land office was directed to select and set aside eight sections of the salt spring lands for the erection of suitable buildings for an asylum for the deaf and dumb and the blind, and also an asylum for the insane.

The entire acreage of this grant has been disposed of and the proceeds from such sales to and including December 31, 1914, have been:

SALT SPRING LAND.

Principal.....	\$64,117 74
Interest.....	37,227 02
Penalty.....	<u>2,174 77</u>
	\$103,519 53

ASYLUM LAND.

Principal.....	\$64,659 89	
Interest.....	56,837 11	
Penalty.....	2,992 65	
		\$124,489 65

NORMAL SCHOOL LAND.

Principal.....	\$79,980 14	
Interest.....	66,933 26	
Penalty.....	2,383 23	
Forfeited Bids.....	370 52*	
		\$149,667 15
Total.....		\$377,676 33

Of the "Salt Spring lands" sold as such there remains eighty (80) acres held under part-paid certificates on which there remains one hundred sixty (\$160.00) dollars yet unpaid, bearing interest at 7 per cent. per annum, and of "Asylum Lands" there remains one hundred sixty (160) acres held under part-paid certificates on which the principal unpaid is four hundred eighty (\$480.00) dollars drawing interest at 7 per cent per annum.

STATE BUILDING LANDS.

In addition to the five sections of land granted to the state by the general government other lands were set aside by the Legislature for the purpose. At the time of selecting a site for the Capitol of the State and the laying off into lots for a town site of section sixteen, in town four north of range two west, the site of the present city of Lansing, certain parties joined in the platting of adjacent territory and a grant of certain lots in one addition was made to the State, which lots were accepted and designated as "State Building Lands." The Legislature also authorized the purchase of certain lots in the plat of the "Town of Michigan" which being upon "primary school" lands the proceeds therefrom would go to the "primary school" fund. These lots were afterwards directed to be sold, the proceeds to be applied to the "State Building Fund."

All of the so-called State Building lands have been disposed of and the proceeds are reported as follows:

Principal.....	\$89,003 14
Interest.....	24,154 09
Penalty.....	454 47
Total.....	\$113,611 70

An unpaid principal of \$375.00 remains for these lands.

*No explanation of the item "forfeited bids" is given by the commissioner who reports this item; but as it is provided by law that anyone bidding for a tract of land (part-paid) that was offered for sale on account of default in payment of principal, interest, penalty or taxes, such bid was subject to redemption at any time within twelve months after the day of offering, and the holder of certificate subject might redeem from such sale upon the payment of the sums due the state and interest upon the sum deposited by the bidder at the rate of 25%. It seems that the explanation of "forfeited bids" must be found in the fact that certain bids made were not redeemed. However, if the bidder who deposited the sums afterwards received a certificate for the purchase of the land the sum so paid by him should be credited as principal purchase money, and in such case it is probable that the amount of \$370.00 is twice included in the report of "principal."

ASSET LANDS.

This was a class of lands taken by the state in payment for loans of state funds made under early laws.

By Act 104, Public Acts of 1837 under which the Superintendent of Public Instruction was given the care and disposition of the primary school and university lands it was provided "that when the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall have fifty thousand dollars in his hands, he shall deposit all moneys in his hands on account of the university or school funds in the deposit bank of the State and take the Cashier's receipt. The moneys deposited shall be loaned to such counties of this State as may apply, but not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars to any one county nor for less term than ten years, the faith of the county to be pledged for the payment of the interest annually, and to pay the principal whenever called for after ten years. Balance of money if any to be loaned to individuals on bond and mortgage on unincumbered lands which exclusive of buildings should be valued at double the amount of the money loaned."

It has been impossible to determine, from the records of the state land office, the number of acres of land and of city lots and other parcels of land acquired by the state in payment of the earlier debts occasioned by the loaning of the funds of the state. The plan of "sales plats" seems not to have been adopted until after the grant of swamp lands in 1850 and therefore there was none of these lands indicated upon such "sale plat books."

From the disposition of proceeds of sales as reported by the commissioners of the land office we assume that such proceeds were appropriated to what was known as the "internal improvement fund" and not until the report of the commissioner of the state land office made for the fiscal year of 1850 do we find any division of the report of receipts from the sale of "asset land" and of internal improvement land. Since that date and until another acquisition of asset lands known as the "Hazelton and Dewey" asset lands the receipts have been, as reported, thirty-seven thousand, nine hundred fifty-six and 57/100 (\$37,956.57) dollars.

DEWEY AND HAZELTON ASSET LANDS.

Under Joint Resolution No. 33 of 1869 the Board of State Auditors were authorized to settle with George M. Dewey a claim held by the state against E. H. Hazelton & Co., on account of moneys loaned to the said company, and to examine any lands proposed to be turned over to the state in liquidation of the said claim. It appears from the records that approximately five thousand, one hundred forty-three and 8/100 (5,143.08) acres of land were deeded to the state for the settlement of the claim.

These lands were sold in the same manner as other state lands, and many of them were purchased upon part-paid certificates.

All of these lands have been sold and the receipts of moneys on account of such sales up to and including December 31, 1914, are reported to be:

For Principal.....	\$72,698 28
For Interest.....	3,778 42
For Penalty.....	173 38
Total.....	\$76,650 08

Forty acres are still held under part-paid certificate on which the unpaid principal is one hundred sixty (\$160.00) dollars, drawing interest at seven per cent. per annum.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT LANDS.

Under the provisions of an act of Congress approved September 4, 1841, the state received five hundred thousand (500,000) acres of the public lands for purposes of internal improvement. The act stipulated that such lands should not be disposed of at a price less than one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre until otherwise authorized by a law of the United States; and that the net proceeds of the sales of said lands should be faithfully applied to the objects of internal improvement within the state, namely:

A "Board of Internal Improvements" was authorized by Act 97 of the session laws of 1837 and were empowered to take charge of any work of internal improvement. The records of this Board are not filed in the state land office and there is nothing available at this time to show to what works of improvement the proceeds of this grant were applied.

The reports of the commissioners of the state land office, who reported the sales of these lands in the same manner as though all had been sold for cash, indicate that the values of the proceeds from the sales of these lands amount in the aggregate to four hundred sixty-nine thousand, five hundred nine and 25/100 (\$469,509.25) dollars.

SWAMP LANDS.

By act of Congress approved September 28, 1850, all "Swamp and Overflowed" lands "rendered thereby unfit for cultivation" were granted to the several states to be disposed of under the direction of the legislatures of the states. In the case of the State of Michigan the basis of identification of such lands was to be the "field notes" on file. In order to carry the provisions of the grant into effect the Surveyor General was required to prepare from the field notes of the survey lists of lands where such field notes should show that the greater part of a tract was of the character specified in the act. From such list the Commissioner of the general land office prepared a list of such lands as it was shown by his records had not theretofore been disposed of, or on which no conflicting claim was shown by the records of the general land office and such list was submitted to the Secretary of the Interior and upon such approval this list was known as an "approved list," and a copy of the same transmitted to the governor of the state to be filed in the state land office. From this "approved list" patents were prepared and signed by the President of the United States conveying to the state a title in fee simple to such lands. A recent report from the General Land office gives the number of acres patented to the State of Michigan up to and including December 31, 1914, as five million, six hundred fifty-five thousand, six hundred eighty-nine and 56/100 (5,655,689.56) acres, and while the best ascertained figures derived from the records of the state land office differ somewhat from this amount, it is assumed, for the purposes of this report that the statement of the commissioner of the general land office is correct.

A full and satisfactory adjustment of the swamp land grant between the state and the general government has never been concluded, but it is not expected that any material increase of acreage will hereafter be received by the state.

The swamp lands have been disposed of in many ways. Such lands have been sold in part for cash upon terms similar to all of the other classes of lands received from the United States.

They have been applied to the payment for the construction of roads and ditches under the direction of the "Board of Control of State Swamp Lands;" by grant to settlers thereon who contracted to ditch and drain the overflowed portions of the tracts entered by them and in grants to several railroads where it was believed that the portions of the state traversed by such railroads would be materially assisted in their development.

Persons building roads and drains under contract with the state and accepting swamp lands in payment therefor, were, upon the acceptance of their completion of the contract, given a credit upon the books of the state land office, which credit was transferrable to others and this credit was denominated "Swamp Land Scrip."

The reports of the several commissioners of the land office show receipts of money from the sale of "Swamp Lands" up to and including December 31, 1914, as having been:

For Principal.....	\$4,908,218 95
For Interest.....	152,511 62
For Penalty.....	6,995 39
Total.....	\$5,067,725 96

We find, however, that in early years while disposing of this grant that the commissioners reported the value of the lands sold for "scrip," and in some instances, the value of the tracts patented to homesteaders in the same item that included the sales actually made for *cash*, and it is therefore, impossible to determine the *actual amount of money received* on account of the swamp lands.

Section five of Act 31 of the public acts of Michigan, 1858, provided: "That all moneys heretofore received and all moneys hereafter received from the sale of the swamp lands donated by the aforesaid act of Congress, after deducting the expenses of sales, shall be denominated a primary school fund, and the interest thereof, at five per centum per annum, shall be appropriated and distributed in like manner as the primary school fund of the state, and all moneys received on such sales aforesaid, after deducting the expenses aforesaid, shall be used and applied to the payment of the outstanding indebtedness of the state in the order in which the same shall fall due."

The report of the State Treasurer for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, shows a primary school fund which draws interest at five (5) per cent. amounting to nine hundred eighty-one thousand, seven hundred six and 48/100 (\$981,706.48) dollars.

Under Act No. 188 of the Public Acts of 1861 the legislature gave to the state board of agriculture in aid of the agricultural college all swamp lands in the townships of Lansing and Meridian, in Ingham county, and in DeWitt and Bath, in Clinton county, the same to be conveyed and sold by the state board of agriculture.

The sales plat books of the state land office show that in accordance with the provisions of the said act six thousand, six hundred ninety-five and 11/100 (6,695.11) acres were transferred to the said board. There are no reports in this office, available to show the amount of proceeds from this grant.

Act 168 Public Acts of 1859 made an appropriation of all unentered swamp lands in township six (6) north, ranges fourteen (14) and fifteen (15) west, to aid in the improvement of the harbor at the mouth of the Little Black River in the county of Ottawa, and it was provided therein that a like amount of swamp land in the Lower Peninsula should be set off, the proceeds of the same when sold to be paid over to the credit of the primary school fund.

The number of acres awarded on the contracts for the said improvement are included in the statement of land sold for "Scrip."

The plat sales book of this office show that five thousand, five hundred five and 56/100 (5,505.56) acres were set off in accordance with this act, all of which were sold for cash at \$1.25 per acre and the proceeds paid in to the credit of the primary school fund.

A grant was made to the "German-American Seminary" of certain lands in Huron county upon the condition that the same should be drained and so reclaimed as to be made fit for cultivation.

The following is a summary of the disposition of the "Swamp Land Grant:":

	Acres.
Patented upon contracts for the constructions of roads, ditches, etc. (Sold for Scrip).....	3,015,182.46
Patented to actual settlers.....	107,367.49
Standing licensed to settlers.....	824.72
Set aside in Forest Reserves.....	1,304.64
Appropriated to use of Agricultural College.....	6,695.11
Granted to Chicago & N. W. R. R. Co.....	141,674.26
Granted to the Detroit, Mack. & Marquette R. R.....	1,327,041.65
Granted to the Marquette, Houghton & Ontonagon R. R....	82,422.12
Granted to the Menominee River Railroad.....	144,371.90
Granted to the German-American Seminary.....	24,998.92
Sold for Cash.....	791,586.30
Sold for Cash, proceeds (entire) to primary school fund....	5,505.56
Vacant and unentered.....	6,714.37
Total.....	5,655,689.56

Three thousand, one hundred twenty and 74/100 (3,120.74) acres of swamp land are yet held under part-paid certificates on which the unpaid principal is now two thousand, three hundred fifty-seven and 59/100 (\$2,357.59) dollars.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE LANDS.

An act of Congress approved July 2, 1862, entitled

"An Act donating Public Lands to the several States and Territories which may provide Colleges for the benefit of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts." provided,

"That there be granted to the several States, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, an amount of public land, to be apportioned to each State a quantity equal to thirty thousand acres for each Senator and Representative in Congress to which the states are respectively entitled by the apportionment under the census of eighteen hundred and sixty: Provided that no mineral lands shall be selected or purchased under the provisions of this act."

Section four of this act provided:

"That all moneys derived from the sale of the lands aforesaid by the States to which the lands are apportioned, * * shall be invested in stocks of the United States, or of the States, or some other safe stocks yielding not less than five per centum upon the par value of said stocks; and that the moneys so invested shall constitute a perpetual fund, the capital of which shall remain forever undiminished, * * * and the interest of which shall be inviolably appropriated, by each State which may take and claim the benefit of this act, to the endowment, support and maintenance of at least one college, where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classic studies, *and including military tactics*, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and *the mechanic arts*, in such manner as the Legislature of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life."

Under the provisions of this act the State of Michigan was entitled to two hundred and forty thousand acres of land. The act provided that such lands should be selected from lands subject to sale at private entry at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, but the agents appointed to make the selection of these lands chose a large quantity of what was known as "double minimum" lands, or lands subject to sale at private entry at two dollars and fifty cents per acre, and such selections being approved by the Secretary of the Interior that the quantity actually received by the State was reduced to two hundred thirty-five thousand, six hundred and seventy-three (235,673) acres.

The minimum price at which the agricultural college lands should be sold was first established by the Legislature at three (\$3.00) dollars per acre, one fourth of the purchase price per acre to be paid at the time of purchase, and the balance at any time thereafter, at the option of the purchaser, with interest at seven per cent. per annum; but it was provided that wherever it was, upon examination, shown that the principal value of the lands consisted in the timber growing thereon the commissioner of the state land office might insist that the full purchase price of the lands should be paid at the time of filing with him an application for the purchase of such tracts.

These lands have been examined and appraised under the authority of the Legislature, at different times, and prices very much in excess of the minimum price as first established have been realized for them.

By Act No. 299 of the Public Acts of 1907 the Legislature directed that all of the agricultural college lands in the counties of Alcona and Iosco should be set aside as a permanent forest reserve, and forty-one thousand, five hundred sixty-eight and 14/100 (41,568.14) acres located in said counties are so held at this date.

Eight thousand, nine hundred twelve and 4/100 (8,912.04) acres remain unsold at this date and four thousand, three hundred seventy-eight and 68/100 (4,378.68) acres are held under part-paid certificates carrying an unpaid principal of thirteen thousand, seventy-four and 23/100 (\$13,074.23) dollars on which seven per cent annual interest is being paid.

The total receipts to date from this class of land have been:

For Principal.....	\$990,876 48
For Interest.....	226,111 42
For Penalty.....	9,903 69
Total.....	<u>\$1,226,891 59</u>

TAX HOMESTEAD LANDS.

Under the provisions of Section 127 of Act No. 206, Public Acts of 1893, it was provided that

“Whenever it shall appear that any lands delinquent for taxes have been bid off to the State for a consecutive period of more than three years, and that no application has been made to redeem or purchase the same, it shall be the duty of the Auditor General and the Commissioner of the State Land Office, when requested to do so by the township board of the township wherein such delinquent lands are situated, to cause an examination of such lands to be made * * * * * and if it shall appear that such lands are barren, swamp and worthless lands and have been abandoned by the owner, * * * * * the Auditor General is hereby authorized to make a transfer of the same to the State, as to an individual, * * * * * which deed shall be recorded in the proper county and a copy filed in the office of the Commissioner of the State Land Office, and such commissioner shall hold such lands subject to sale as hereinafter provided.”

This act further provided that such lands should be granted as homesteads to any person desiring to enter them for that purpose and who paid an entry fee of ten cents per acre and who contracted to reside upon and improve the land for five years, and to pay to the state the sum of ten cents per acre annually during the five years.

It was because of this provision that the term “Tax Homestead Lands” was given to this class of land.

This Act was amended at subsequent sessions of the legislature until the law provides that any delinquent tax land on which no taxes have been paid for five years, and which have not been redeemed or purchased shall be deeded to the State by the Auditor General. Act No. 141 of the Public Acts of 1901 amended this act by providing that any lands so deeded to the State by the Auditor General, might be withdrawn from entry under the homestead right and sold as other state lands, except that no provision was made for selling them on other terms than the full payment of the purchase price upon the filing of an application to purchase them.

There has been deeded to the State under the provisions of this Act two millions, three hundred thirteen thousand, two hundred eleven and 51/100 (2,313,211.51) acres.

In addition to the foregoing a large number of City and Village lots have been deeded to the State under this law and have been disposed of under its provisions.

During the earlier years of the working of this law it was found that the proceedings taken by the collecting officers had been defective and it became the duty of the Auditor General to issue certificates of error against the deeds under which many thousand acres had been deeded to the State. In this manner approximately eighty-three thousand, two hundred seventy-one

and 2/100 (83,271.02) acres were restored to the tax lists of the State, many thousands of them to be again deeded to the State after the proceedings under the requirements of the tax law had legally operated to bring them subject to the provisions of law whereby they could legally be transferred to the State.

One million, four hundred sixty-eight thousand, ninety-six and 52/100 (1,468,096.52) acres have been sold and with the many thousand of City and Village lots which have been sold to purchasers these sales have produced the sum of two millions, two hundred forty-one thousand, five hundred fifty and 88/100 (\$2,241,550.88) dollars. These proceeds have been apportioned to the State, County and Townships pro rata as their interests in the taxes for which the lands were delinquent at date of transfer to the State was shown by the books of the Auditor General. It has been found that the average percentage of the taxes was, approximately, seventy-two per cent for the county and township and twenty-eight per cent for the State in the lands outside of villages and cities, and that the percentage belonging to the State for city and village properties was, approximately, ten per cent.

Four hundred twenty-one thousand, eight hundred eighty-four and 60/100 (421,884.60) acres were entered as homesteads by parties desiring them for permanent homes. Two hundred eight thousand, six hundred eighty-nine (208,689.00) have been deeded to such actual settlers upon the final proof made after five years occupation and improvement and twenty-six thousand, five hundred eighty-two and 25/100 (26,582.25) are now held by actual settlers under the homestead right.

Under Act 280 of the Public Acts of 1909, creating the Public Domain Commission it was required that not less than two hundred thousand acres of this class of land should be set aside as "forest reserves." Such has been done and at this date two hundred thirty-three thousand, seven hundred forty-nine and 74/100 (233,749.74) acres are now held in several counties.

Under the provisions of Act No. 193 of the Public Acts of 1911 the Public Domain Commission was authorized and empowered to make an exchange of lands with the United States, corporations or private individuals who held title to lands within the boundaries of any of the forest reserves established on the part of the State taking in exchange for other lands of the State not lying within the boundaries or immediately contiguous to such forest reserves, lands so held by the United States, corporations or private persons when of approximately equal value.

Under these provisions one thousand, one hundred twenty-nine and fifty-nine one hundredths (1,129.59) acres have been deeded to parties in exchange for one thousand, four hundred eighty-three and 62/100 (1,483.62) acres which have assisted in the consolidation of the forest reserves.

Two hundred ninety-one thousand, six hundred ninety-two and 72/100 (291,692.72) acres are yet vacant and undisposed of.

The total receipts of money from this class of land have been:

For Sales (including city and village lots).....	\$2,241,550 88
For homestead entry fees.....	421,884 60
Total.....	\$2,643,435 48

Total receipts of the State Land Office, from its organization (1842) to December 31, 1914:

Primary School lands:			
Principal.....	\$4,382,465	76	
Interest.....	2,205,804	52	
Penalty.....	68,931	89	
			\$6,657,202 17
Agricultural College land:			
Principal.....	\$990,876	48	
Interest.....	226,111	42	
Penalty.....	9,903	69	
			1,226,891 59
University lands:			
Principal.....	\$609,755	89	
Interest.....	530,081	39	
Penalty.....	8,532	66	
			1,148,369 94
Normal School lands:			
Principal.....	\$79,980	14	
Interest.....	66,933	36	
Penalty.....	2,383	23	
			149,296 73
Asylum land:			
Principal.....	\$64,659	89	
Interest.....	56,837	11	
Penalty.....	2,992	65	
			124,489 65
Salt Spring land:			
Principal.....	\$64,117	74	
Interest.....	37,227	02	
Penalty.....	2,174	77	
			103,519 53
State Building lands:			
Principal.....	\$89,003	14	
Interest.....	24,154	09	
Penalty.....	454	47	
			113,611 70
Internal Improvement lands:			
Principal.....	\$584,052	48	
			584,052 48
Dewey Asset lands:			
Principal.....	\$72,698	28	
Interest.....	3,778	42	
Penalty.....	173	38	
			76,650 08
Swamp lands:			
Principal.....	\$4,908,218	95	
Interest.....	152,511	62	
Penalty.....	6,995	39	
			5,067,725 96

Taxes collected on part-paid lands.....	181,651 65
Fees for plats, etc.....	67,321 64
Fees received for swamp lands licensed to settlers.....	3,422 37
Money collected for trespass.....	198,058 29
Rent for Lansing city lots.....	118 00
Fees for homesteads entered by settlers on tax homestead land.....	47,499 55
Receipts from sales of tax homestead lands.....	2,241,550 88
Received for sales of Detroit & Milwaukee R. R. lands...	17,001 01
Sale of old capitol building.....	500 00
Sale of timber from Agricultural College lands.....	5,435 25
Sale of timber from Tax Homestead lands.....	7 92
Received from leases on St. Clair Flats.....	11,281 98
For rent of primary school lands.....	1,394 94
For rent of University lands.....	706 41
For rent of salt spring lands.....	16 00
	\$18,027,775 72

In the closing of this, the last report of the Commissioner of the State Land Office, I wish to say that the office has performed its functions and outlived its usefulness. The small amount of land which now remains the property of the State should be used for the benefit of the people of the State as a whole and should not pass into the hands of private individuals. The lands remaining the property of the State are among the poorest within its boundaries, but are suitable for the growing of forests and for game refuges. In addition, they can be used as camping grounds, where people from the cities can spend a month or so during the summer enjoying the out-of-door life and studying nature.

Michigan at one time or another, has owned in the neighborhood of 11,000,000 acres of land, all but 600,000 acres of which have passed into the hands of private individuals. Let us hope that the Public Domain Commission, as the successor to the Commissioner of the State Land Office, may see to it that these few acres, which are the remnant of Michigan's great holdings, are preserved to the people as a whole for their use and benefit.

Respectfully submitted,

AUGUSTUS C. CARTON,
Commissioner of the State Land Office.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



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